appear foul ? takes virtuous copies to be wicked ; like those that, under hot ardent zeal, would set whole realms on fire [3].

he did ; but it signifies puzzle him, outdo him at his own weapons. WARBTJRTON.

How the devil, or any other being, should be *set clear* by being *guzzled* and *outdone,* the commentator has not explained. When In a croud we would have an opening made, we say, " Stand clear," that is, " out of the way of danger." With some affinity to this use, though not without great harshness, to *set char,* may be to *set aside.* But I believe the original corruptioti is the insertion of the negative, which was obtruded by some transcriber, who supposed *crossed to* mean *thwarted,* when it meant, *exempted from evil.* The use of *crossing* by way of protection or purification, was probably not worn out in Shakspeare's time. The sense of *set clear* is now easy ; he has no longer the guilt of tempting man. To '* cross himself" may mean, in a very familiar sense, [cs] to clear his score, to get out of debt, to quit his reckoning." He knew not *what he did,* may mean, he knew not how much good he was doing himself. There is no need of emendation.

JOHNSON,

Perhaps Dr. Wai-burton's explanation is the true one. *Clear* is an adverb, or so used ; and Dr. Johnson's Dictionary observes, that *to set* means, in Addison, to *embarrass,* to *distress,* to *perplex.* — If then the devil made men politick, he has thwarted his own interest, because the superior cunning of man will at last puzzle him, or be above the reach of his temptations. TOLLET.

Johnson's explanation of this passage is nearly right ; but I don't see how the insertion of the negative injures the sense, or why that should be considered as a corruption. Servilius means to say, that the devil did not foresee the advantage that would arise to himself from thence, when he made men politick. He redeemed himself by it ; for men will, in the end, become so much more villainous than he is, that they will set him clear; he will appear innocent when compared to them. Johnson has rightly explained the words, " he crossed himself by it." — So, in Cymbeline., Posthumus says of himself — « ' - - - I t i s I

"That all the abhorred things o' the earth
amend, " By being worse than they."

M. MASON.

The meaning, I think, is this : — " The devil did not know what he was about, [how much his reputation for wickedness would be diminished] when he made men crafty and interested ; he thwarted himself by it ; [by thus raising up rivals to contend with him in iniquity, and at length to surpass him ;] and I cannot]>u,t think that at last the enormities of mankind will rise to such